

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 9 of 1882.]

ON

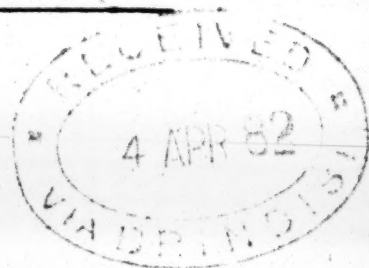
NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 4th March 1882.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
Monthly.				
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi"	Calcutta	2,100	Māgh, 1288 B.S.
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	175	
Fortnightly.				
3	"Sansodhini"	Chittagong	600	
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto	.....
Weekly.				
5	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta	700	20th February 1882.
6	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto	.....	3rd March 1882.
7	"Bangabāsi"	Ditto	.....
8	"Bhārat Bandhu"	Ditto	.....	28th February 1882.
9	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensing	671	21st ditto.
10	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	2,000	
11	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Burdwan	296	21st ditto.
12	"Chāruvartā"	Sherepore, Mymensing	.....	20th ditto.
13	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	350	19th and 26th February 1882.
14	"Dūt"	Calcutta	.....	27th February 1882.
15	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	745	3rd March 1882.
16	"Halisahar Prakāshikā"	Calcutta	.....	25th February 1882.
17	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	1st March 1882.
18	"Medinī"	Midnapore	.....	18th February 1882.
19	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore	487	24th ditto.
20	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Ditto	.....
21	"Navavibhākar"	Calcutta	850	27th ditto.
22	"Paridarshak"	Sylhet	.....	19th ditto.
23	"Pratikār"	Berhampore	275	24th ditto.
24	"Rajshahye Samvād"	Beauleah	.....
25	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kakinia, Rungpore	250	2nd March 1882.
26	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah	500	
27	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	500	22nd February 1882.
28	"Som Prakāsh"	Changripottā, 24-Perghs.	.....	27th ditto.
29	"Sudhākar"	Mymensing	.....
30	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta	4,000	25th ditto.
31	"Srihatta Prakāsh"	Sylhet	440	
32	"Tripurā Vartāvaha"	Commillah	.....	18th ditto.
Daily.				
33	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Calcutta	700	24th February to 2nd March 1882.
34	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	27th ditto to 3rd ditto.
35	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	27th ditto to 4th ditto.
36	"Banga Vidya Prakāshikā"	Ditto	500	27th ditto to 3rd ditto.
37	"Prabhāti"	Ditto	.....	25th ditto to 3rd ditto.
38	"Samāchār Sudāhbarsan"	Ditto	.....
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
Weekly.				
39	"Urdu Guide"	Ditto	365	25th February 1882.



No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
	HINDI.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>			
40	"Behár Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna ...	500	23rd February 1882.
41	"Bhárat Mitra"	Calcutta ...	500	23rd ditto.
42	"Sár Sudhánidhi"	Ditto ...	200	27th ditto.
43	"Uchit Baktá"	Ditto ...	.....	25th ditto.
	PERSIAN.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>			
44	"Jám-Jahán-numá"	Ditto ...	250	24th ditto.
	URDU.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>			
45	"Akhhár-i-Darussaltanat"	Ditto ...	.....
	ASSAMESE.			
	<i>Monthly.</i>			
46	"Assam Vilásini"	Sibsagar ...	.....
	URIYA.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>			
47	"Utkal Dípiká"	Cuttack ...	200	18th ditto.
48	"Utkal Darpan"	Balasore ...	160	12th ditto.
49	"Balasore Samvad Váhika"	Ditto ...	125	
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>			
50	"Mayurbhunj Pákhik Pátriká"	Mayurbhunj ...	.....
	HINDI.			
	<i>Monthly.</i>			
51	"Kshatriya Patriká"	Patna ...	.....

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

WE extract the following observations from an article in the *Medini* of the 18th February:—The decision passed by Government on the memorial which had been presented to the Lieutenant-Governor by certain canal rate-payers of Midnapore is both incomplete and erroneous. His Honor has expressed his belief that Mr. Fiddian, the Collector of Midnapore, made a most careful enquiry into the allegations contained in the memorial; but the Editor is informed that this was not the case, and that the enquiry made was not at all thorough.

MEDINI,
February 18th, 1882.

During the few days that His Honor remained at Midnapore (he arrived on the 5th and left on the 7th September last), a large number of petitions was presented to him by the canal rate-payers, who fully and naturally expected that, after personally making enquiries, he would grant them relief. His Honor also could have easily done this, because many of the petitioners were then present in Midnapore. He, however, did not see his way to waste his valuable time by listening to their lamentations, and was rather for several reasons inclined to believe that their complaints were false. The treatment therefore that was accorded to them was not what they had expected, and they consequently returned to their homes disappointed. A few among them, however, subsequently learnt that the Collector of Midnapore would come on the 22nd September to the Buramula office for enquiring into their complaints. Now the rate-payers were aware that they had repeatedly before sought redress from the Collector in vain; nay, that the effect of their prayers had rather been the very reverse of what they had expected. They did not therefore feel much confidence in an enquiry that was to be conducted by the Collector. This point was even mentioned in their petitions. When, in spite of this, they found themselves referred by the Lieutenant-Governor to the local officers concerned with the subject-matter of their petition, they were exceedingly disappointed. The visit of the Collector had been indeed proclaimed by beat of drum to some among the petitioners, but from want of confidence and time they did not care to put in an appearance before that officer. The Collector says in his report that his visit had been previously announced to the petitioners, and that many of them were present before him at Buramula. The Editor is informed that just the contrary was the case, and that the canal officers somehow prevented those among the ryots from appearing whose evidence alone could have established their guilt. Mr. Fiddian did not, as had been suggested to him by this paper, summon before him those ryots who had presented the petitions to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor. The enquiry made by Mr. Fiddian was not at all what it ought to have been, and the manner of conducting it was not likely to lead to any satisfactory result. Those who were complained against, and whose interest it was to render the enquiry abortive, were the very persons entrusted with the task of announcing the Collector's visit. Is Mr. Fiddian prepared to say that notice of the visit was properly given, or that those whose evidence alone would have elicited the truth were present on the occasion when the enquiry was held? Another point is, the less than two days' time allowed to the petitioners was very short. It was simply impossible for the Collector to dispose of within this short time the complaints of nearly a hundred thousand ryots living over an area of 750 square miles. For all these reasons the enquiry made by him could not be, and was not, a complete one.

2. The *Tripurá Vártāvaha*, of the 18th February, makes the following observations in the course of an article on the reduction of public expenditure:—The people have come to attach but little value to proposals of retrenchment emanating from Government. Such proposals, when carried out, very

TRIPURÁ VARTAVAH,
February 18th, 1882.

Reduction of public expenditure.

frequently mean the abolition of the posts of a few peons or of other equally low-paid public servants, and are not unoften made at the very time when, to meet increased expenditure in other directions, some new tax is perhaps imposed upon the people. While, again, Government is found most anxious to effect these small economies, it creates, regardless of the costs that will have to be incurred, new district charges in order that it may be able to provide civilians with suitable appointments. Lord Ripon, it is said, has taken up the subject of retrenchment for consideration, and has determined to apply the shears to the upper branches of the public service. Nay, His Excellency, it is reported, is actually thinking of reducing the salary attached to his own post. By this act of disinterestedness he has established a claim to the lasting gratitude of the people of India, and led them to hope that love for men of his own race will not blind him to the importance of making a reduction of expenditure. The most effective way of doing this is to substitute a cheap native for the present costly European agency in the public service of the country.

DACCA PRAKASH,
February 19th, 1892.

3. The *Dacca Prakāsh*, of the 19th February, points out that a direct railway line from Dacca to Mymensing, not passing through any of the most populous towns or important trade centres in East Bengal, is not likely to confer much benefit upon the inhabitants of that part of the country. And yet such is the route which, as is evident from the present arrangements, the proposed railway will take. Indeed, with the sole exception of Jaydepore, there is no other place where a station could be conveniently established on the proposed line of route. It would have been different, however, if the line had passed through Tangail. Many important localities would in that case have been traversed by it. But the most desirable line of route for the contemplated railway would be one passing along the banks of the Lakhya river, which flows past many populous villages and marts. The authorities are asked to reconsider the matter.

DACCA PRAKASH.

4. The same paper condemns the arrangement under which the task of selecting text-books for candidates for the Vernacular Scholarship Examination is proposed to be left to a committee composed of men who are mostly residents of Calcutta. In the first place, the books used in the lower classes of vernacular schools are such insignificant compositions that they are not likely to be read by the members for themselves. The result, therefore, will most probably be this, that they will be guided by the recommendations of others. In the second place, the majority of the members being residents of the metropolis, they have an idea that only such books as are written by men of the metropolitan districts are suited for boys studying in the vernacular schools. Now this idea very naturally does not find favour with inhabitants of the mofussil, who are aware that there are at present many amongst them who are authors of really useful school-books, and consequently deserve encouragement. If the task of selection were entrusted to a Calcutta committee, no native author coming from the mofussil would be at all likely to be patronised. It is therefore proposed by the writer that Government should direct the formation of sub text-book committees in all places in the mofussil which are the head-quarters of an Inspector of Schools, a Joint-Inspector, or an Assistant Inspector. These sub-committees should be empowered to select text-books for use in the local schools, and the central committee at Calcutta should be asked to carefully consider their recommendations. An appeal should lie to the Director of Public Instruction against the decision of the last-mentioned committee.

PARIDARSHAK,
February 19th, 1892.

5. Referring to the transfer of Baboo Bankim Chandra Chatterjee from the Bengal Secretariat to a Deputy Magistrateship, the *Paridarshak*, of the 19th February, remarks that it is sure that the Baboo did not give out any office secrets. The fact would seem to be that certain low-minded Government officers do not wish to see a Bengali continuing in the post of Assistant Secretary, and have therefore thought it desirable to turn him out from that office on some pretext or other. The name of the post has been changed, but this is only throwing dust into the eyes of the public.

Baboo Bankim Chandra Chatterjee.

PARIDARSHAK.

6. We extract the following observations from an article in the same paper:—The nature of the judgment that would be passed by Government in the case of Mr. Sharp was in a manner predicted by this journal. It was, however, hoped that on the eve of his departure from India, Sir Ashley Eden might not unnaturally wish to conciliate the people by pronouncing a decision different from that which was predicted. But the charcoal does not change colour even if washed a hundred times, and Sir Ashley has been true to himself. He has dismissed the case against Mr. Sharp on grounds which are simply ridiculous. It is doubtful whether even a special pleader could, in the interests of his client, bring forward arguments such as those advanced by His Honor in support of his decision. It will be found, however, that he has acted on the "penny wise and pound foolish" principle. In seeking to please one person he has become unpopular with the people of India. Who will deny that he has by his decision in the Bogra case held a premium to highhandedness on the part of civilians?

Sir Ashley Eden and Mr. Sharp.

CHARU VARTA,
February 20th, 1892.

7. The *Charu Varta*, of the 20th January, has heard with gratification that a native of India will shortly be given a superior appointment in the army. The conduct of Government in this matter is viewed with great mortification by the people of this country. Native officers are excluded from the highest ranks of the military service. The Mahomedan rulers of India pursued a more liberal policy in this respect, and there were not a few Rajpoot generals who fought loyally and bravely the battles of the Moghul Emperors. Rome in ancient times, and Russia in modern, furnish instances of nations who have favoured the policy of appointing able men chosen from conquered races to fill high and responsible offices in the army. It is earnestly to be desired that the British Government also will follow their line of action.

Natives in the Army.

CHARU VARTA.

8. The same paper observes that the Transfer of Property Bill (since passed into law) should not be hurried through the Council. It is an important measure affecting native interests, and the public should be allowed sufficient time to consider its provisions.

The Transfer of Property Bill.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
February 20th, 1892.

9. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 20th February, remarks that by holding the recent meeting to thank Lord Ripon for having repealed the Vernacular Press Act, the Native Editors have but injured their own prestige, and shown that the Act only affected themselves. Their action will only show that they are not the representatives of the people, which they profess to be. A meeting for thanking the Viceroy for the repeal of the Vernacular Press Act should have been organized by the people, and not by native editors.

Meeting of Native Editors to thank Lord Ripon for the repeal of the Vernacular Press Act.

ANANDA BASAR
PATRIKA,
February 20th, 1882.

10. The same paper contains what purports to have been a long dialogue between the Secretary of State and the Under-Secretary of State for India. Lord Hartington is described as directing his assistant to telegraph to the Finance Minister in India successively to repeal the cotton duties, the salt duties, and the opium duties, and the Finance Minister as first protesting against these orders on the score of a lack of funds, but on pressure being put upon him, as suddenly discovering a large surplus in the revenues.

BHARAT MIHIR,
February 21st, 1882.

11. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 21st February, contains a long article headed "What is it that India wants?" In reply to this question, the Editor remarks that India expects justice, and does not want to see a miscarriage of justice, an ignoring of truth, or a sacrifice of morality and honesty on the altar of tortuous policy. She is tired with witnessing these things in the palaces of successive Viceroys, and it was because she had said what she felt, that the Vernacular Press Act was passed. The Editor then refers to the almost complete exclusion of natives of India from the superior appointments in the public service, the invidious distinction of race made in the amended Criminal Procedure Code, and the decision of the Lieutenant-Governor in the Bogra Sankirtan case.

BHARAT MIHIR.

12. The same paper contains an article on the Education Commission. The observations made in it are similar to those noticed in paragraphs 8 and 10 of our last report.

SAHACHAR,
February 22nd, 1882.

13. The *Sāhachar*, of the 22nd February, remarks that the imprisonment of females for debt is extremely disliked by the native community. In many cases, however, a woman is only put in the foreground, the real debtor being a male. If the case is lost, it is the female who is held liable for the costs. The public therefore desire that females should be exempted from punishment. But as *benami* transactions are very common in this country, and are even recognized by the courts, it is necessary that some provision should be made whereby the practice of conducting a case ostensibly for or against a woman may be prevented. If in such cases it appears to any court that there is a male who is really the party to the suit, the decree should be passed against him.

PRATIKAR,
February 24th, 1882.

14. The *Pratikār*, of the 24th February, earnestly hopes that the Lieutenant-Governor will soon transfer Mr. Beames from Lalbag, and grant him promotion. Is it not really shameful, the writer ironically observes, that the brother of Mr. Commissioner Beames should thus remain neglected at a petty sub-division like Lalbag? The Editor refers to the case of a constable of police who was recently assaulted by Mr. Beames for having failed to prevent the howling of a dog while he was on his beat.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
February 25th, 1882.

15. The *Sulabha Samāchār*, of the 25th February, does not know which to believe the most—the allegation that the Calcutta Municipality does not consider the life of a native as of equal value with that of a European, or the statement that the work done by the Corporation, when pressure is put upon it, is far different from the work which it does merely from a sense of duty. The state of the roads in the northern part of the city, particularly after a shower of rain, is one which it is really frightful to contemplate, but the municipal authorities are not in the least moved by it. Compared with the native quarters, the European quarters of the city are paradise itself, and yet the illness of any

European in Chowringhee creates a great stir in the Municipal Office. The efforts that are being made by Mr. Harrison for improving the health of the town are really commendable, but the interests of both native and European citizens should be consulted.

16. The same paper contains what purports to have been a memorial made to the Lieutenant-Governor by the toppers of Bengal, thanking him for the introduction of the outstill system into the country.

The outstill system and increase of drunkenness.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
February 25th, 1882.

17. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash*, of the 26th February, dwells upon the dislike with which respectable men have come to look upon service on the punchayet. The members are treated with great rudeness by the police. They are weighted with heavy responsibilities, but have not been granted any power over the chowkidars. These frequently neglect their duty.

Village punchayets.

DACCA PRAKASH,
February 26th, 1882.

18. The *Som Prakash*, of the 27th February, confesses to a feeling of uneasiness at the decision which the Government of India has passed in the matter of maintaining the Agra College. That decision is not one favourable to the cause of high education. The people fear they are obtaining some idea of the recommendations to be made by the Education Commission from the opinion expressed by Government in reference to the Agra College. The people of the North-Western Provinces have not yet come to fully appreciate the advantages of education, and it is therefore necessary for Government to maintain colleges among them. The time has not yet come when it could safely retire from the field of high education, leaving it to the municipalities.

High education.

SOM PRAKASH,
February 27th, 1882.

19. The same paper does not think that the creation of a famine fund is an effective means of preventing a recurrence of famine. The levy of a permanent famine tax in order that the proceeds may be applied for purposes of relief on some unknown future occasion is justly felt as a hardship by the people. Again, it is not money alone that can relieve distress arising from scarcity of food. What Government should do in this connection is to take such steps as may lead to the amelioration of the condition of the ryots, the increase of the fertility of the soil, and the growth of the practice of laying in stores of grain on the part of the poor. When a famine does appear, export of food-grains should be stopped and the collection of land revenue suspended.

A famine fund.

SOM PRAKASH.

20. The same paper regrets to have to notice that the Lieutenant-Governor is not particularly anxious to prevent an increase of drunkenness; on the contrary, he appears rather to desire that the people should drink. There is therefore little hope of any reforms emanating from him. It behoves the Government of India to interfere.

Increase of drunkenness.

SOM PRAKASH.

21. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 27th February, contains a long editorial on the increase of litigation. The Editor observes that this result is erroneously attributed to a habit of litigiousness on the part of the people of this country. The truth, however, is that it has been brought about by the circumstance (1) that the civil rights of the people have been defined by law, (2) that with the spread of civilization the people have learnt their rights, (3) that litigation has been facilitated by the establishment of law courts all over the country, (4) that the defects in the law make it possible for the lawyers to find out new grounds of litigation, and (5) that success in a law-suit is regarded as an honor, and failure as humiliation. Now if it be desirable to diminish the evil of litigation, Government should make the legislative Acts clear in expression and accurate in matter, promote education, take care that laws are not unnecessarily multiplied, and lastly establish arbitration courts.

Increase of litigation.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
February 27th, 1882.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
February 27th, 1882.

22. The same paper warmly approves of the sentiments of the speech made by Mr. Lall Mohun Ghosh at the recent Town Hall meeting. It is to be hoped that Lord Ripon will understand the feelings which prompted that speech. India expected much from the Liberals, and will be disappointed if they think that they have done enough for her.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,
February 24th, 1882.

23. A correspondent of the *Samvād Prabhākar*, of the 24th February dwells upon the miserable condition of the roads in Khasmehal Banomalipore and adjacent villages in the Diamond Harbour subdivision of the 24-Pergunnahs. The inhabitants annually pay a large amount of road cess, for which they do not get any return.

PRABHATI,
February 27th, 1882.

24. The *Prabhāti*, of the 27th February, remarks, in reference to the proposal to introduce local self-government among the people of this country, that before this is done, Government should endeavour to introduce a spirit of independence into the legislative councils.

UTKAL DURPANA,
February 12th, 1882.

25. The *Utkal Durpana*, of the 12th February, in an article on the to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, says that the Select Committee deserve the thanks of the public for making a few important amendments. There are still several other sections which require to be amended, but which the Committee have overlooked. They are as follows:—

1st.—When an accused person is convicted of any offence in a lower court, he is at once sent to undergo the sentence of imprisonment. Instead of this, however, if he were sent to the hajut or were released on bail, in consideration of the degree of the offence committed, there would be no loss to Government, while the accused, if acquitted in the appellate court, would be free from all unnecessary hardship.

2nd.—When a case is committed to the sessions court, a police officer holding the rank of a District Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent is usually appointed to conduct the case. The Editor condemns such a procedure, inasmuch as the presence of the police officer is likely to inspire the defendants, more especially the witnesses, with fear.

3rd.—It is desirable that there should be no difference between a European and a native, so far as the administration of justice is concerned. When, for instance, a native is sentenced to a month's imprisonment or to pay a fine of Rs. 50, or when he is summarily sentenced to three months' imprisonment, no appeal lies against the order; but an appeal lies, in the case of a European, when he is sentenced even to one hour's imprisonment or to pay a fine of four annas only.

UTKAL DIPIKA,
February 18th, 1882.

26. The *Utkal Dipikā*, of the 18th February, strongly condemns the judgment of Mr. Manisty, the Joint-Magistrate of Cuttack, passed in the case of the Karmanga Mutha Babajee (ascetic). The particulars of the case may be thus briefly stated:—A soobadar belonging to the regiment of this station reported to the staff officer that a sepoy and the Karmanga Mutha Babajee were constantly quarrelling with each other, and that therefore the parties were no longer fit to live in the cantonment. On this the Babajee was sent for, and in the presence of the staff officer he brought forward certain accusations against the soobadar, and no sooner did the former come out of the bungalow than he began to abuse the latter right and left, and in a fit of passion threatened to kill him. The soobadar, on hearing this, believed and feared that the Babajee by his potent charms and incantations would kill him in a few months. There were only two eye-witnesses on the

occasion. The testimony of the first witness was that the Babajee said that "many soobadars and zemindars have come and gone away, and you will also depart in a few months; why should you quarrel with me?" The soobadar, says the witness, inferred from these expressions that the Babajee meant thereby to kill him, but this inference was, the witness remarked, an erroneous one. The evidence of the second witness was to the effect that the Babajee threatened him with death in a few months. It is a common thing, says the Editor, for the Babajees to give expression to such feelings when they are provoked, but we cannot accept the construction put upon the Babajee's statement by the Joint-Magistrate and the soobadar. The Babajee was not asked to say anything in his defence, although he said that he was innocent in the matter. Notwithstanding this, the Joint-Magistrate fined him Rs. 50 and sentenced him to six months' rigorous imprisonment. Such a proceeding on the part of the Joint-Magistrate is quite contrary to the principles of justice in view of the weak and conflicting evidence adduced.

27. The same journal, in an article on the legislative Acts and the newspapers, dwells at some length on the hurried manner in which Bills are passed by the Council. They are sometimes so hastily passed into law that it becomes almost impossible for native papers to express their opinion on them. It behoves Government to be patient in such matters.

UTKAL DIPIKA,
February 18th, 1882.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 4th March 1882.

